THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A study was presented during the XXth Annual Conference of Indian Society of Medical Statistics at Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi on 19-22, December, 2002. The study was based upon a sample survey on the status of fertility and family planning in 21 slums out of 218 slums in Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh. The study has highlighted the acceptance of family planning at higher parity slowing the pace of fertility decline. The study also mentioned that non-adoption of spacing methods of contraception, early age of marriage and preference for male child result in higher fertility.

(c) Two National Family Health Surveys carried out in 1992-93 (NFHS-I) and in 1998-99 (NFHS-II) have shown the overall improvement in the status of Contraceptive Prevalence Rate. The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in the country has improved from 40.6% to 48.2% in total, from 51.0% to 58.2% in urban areas and from 36.9% to 44.7% in rural areas.

Virology Research Institute

2312. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishing a Virology Research Institute in Hyderabad on the lines of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi;

(b) whether Government would consider it favourably in view of the present prevalence of viral diseases in the State; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed institute would come into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A request has very recently been made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of advanced diagnostic Centre for Communicable Diseases including Virology Diagnostic Centre at the Institute of Preventive Medicine in Hyderabad and the same is being examined.